

The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

**Children and Families Council for Prevention Programs
a.k.a. Council for Equitable Youth Justice
Meeting Minutes; December 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 1 pm via Zoom**

Members Present: Karen Vastine, Amy Davenport, Donn Hutchins, Sparks, Kreig Pinkham, Mike Loner, Katherine O’Day, Mackenzie Mazza, Stu Berry, Kirsten Kersey, Christopher Lukasik, Matt Wolf, Linda Johnson, Laurey Burris

Members Absent: Rachel Larsen, Mercedes Avila, Julia Brand

Partners Present: Tyler Allen, Lindy Boudreau, Chief Jennifer Frank

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:32

Introductions & Updates

- The Chair and Amy gave a brief update on the status of proposed statute changes.
- The Chair discussed attendance at 3 CJJ meetings in 2024 and noted that limited funding available to attend these meetings.
 - o [Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference](#): May 24-26, 2023 in Washington, DC. It is important to include Hill visits in 2024, with new Vermont representation. Amy, Donn, and Christopher expressed an interest in attending. The final decision on attendance will be made in the future; early meeting discounts end in January.

November Meeting Notes – Vote to Approve

After brief discussion and a motion by Amy, second by Christopher, the council voted unanimously to approve the November Council Meeting Minutes.

BSD Funding – VOTE to Approve

- The Chair made an agenda change to insure a quorum for this discussion of this issue.
- Sparks recused himself from this portion of the meeting.
- The Chair and Vice Chair overviewed issues with funding the third year of the Burlington School District Title II formula grant and recommended that the Council approve funding of \$80,200 for direct work which is the same funding as in prior years. There may be future issues that require additional funding for this grant in year 3 and if so, the Council will review them at that time. The Chair noted that \$5,000 of separate funding for grant evaluation would be included in \$80,200 as evaluation costs have been less than anticipated.
- After brief discussion, Amy moved and Mike seconded, a motion to approve \$80,200 of Title II formula grant dollars to Burlington School District for a third year of their direct work with youth and staff to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in their school discipline. The motion passed unanimously with Sparks recusing.

DCF Proposed High-End System of Care Plan Discussion

- Karen, Tyler, and Lindy led a broad and lengthy discussion on DCF’s approach to establish a comprehensive Treatment System of Care to support the juvenile justice system in Vermont.
- The following is a list of questions and comments discussed:

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- Need data on the percentage of youth in the juvenile justice system that need this type of care. The age ranges of the youth involved would also be helpful.
- There were multiple questions about the potential indefinite postponement of “raise the age” legislation that the Council has supported. DCF stressed that their position on this was postponement of “raise the Age” versus rollback of the law. How can the Council get visibility to this position and engage in the discussion? The Governor’s Council on Public Safety appears to be a key player.
- Tyler presented the key components of the continuum of care the DCF is implementing to support the juvenile justice system; he stressed that this was a therapeutic (including secure stabilization), not an incarceration approach. He also stated the DCF’s position on the what is needed to create a continuum of care for juveniles and increasing their capacity to do so has not changed since the closing of Woodside.
- Among the issues raised were: the current status of the Newbury facility; is Beckett the vendor at the proposed Newbury facility; what issues did Newbury residents raise in town meeting with DCF; how long will an appeal of the Newbury decision take; how DCF plans to deal with juvenile females and LBGQT youth; how will 18 and 19 year old youth be treated; what steps do the Governor and Legislature need to take to support the implementation of this system of care; what is the downside pressure on the entire juvenile justice system, might more be at risk than it appears?
- Karen requested that a small work group be formed to work with her to develop a response to address threats “raise the age” implementation and related issues raised in the discussion. Mike, Amy, Kreig, and Donn volunteered; Stu and Linda volunteered to be editors.

Annual Report Discussion

Based on Elizabeth’s outline, Karen led a discussion what the Council should include in its 2022 Annual Report to the Governor. A red line summary of the proposed changes is attached to these minutes. Next steps were discussed. With the changes that the Council has undertaken recently this document may prove useful in discussions with legislators and the administration in 2023.

Committee Updates

- Ethnic and Racial Disparities (Sparks)
 - Racial Equity Consultant work; expect to bring a proposal to the Council in January.
- Governance Committee (Karen)
 - Membership Position Description discussion postponed until January
 - Development of an Orientation Plan for new Council members is in development.
- Systems Improvement (Amy)
 - DV Pilot Program update.
 - LE Restorative Justice Training is having issues attracting law enforcement participants. It was suggested that local Select Boards may be interested in supporting this training. A shortened introductory class was also discussed.
- Youth Services (Katherine)
 - Youth Drop-In Centers RFP is in process and should be issued soon. The RFP will incorporate youth scoring for the first time.
 - Youth Resource Map development continues and appears promising.

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Adjournment

The Chair reminded members that

- The Council meeting on January 19th is planned to be a face to face meeting at DCF in Waterbury.
- The Council is looking into the possibility of a scholarship fund to honor Bob Sheil who passed away recently.
- Elizabeth will be away on maternity leave during the first part of the year; DCF is planning to hire a temp to stand in for her.
- Dorinne Dorfman recently submitted her resignation from the Council.

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 12:32 pm.